

**ABSTRACT:**

# A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONTROLLING ACCESS BY CLIENTS TO SERVERS OVER AN INTERNET PROTOCOL NETWORK

A method of providing secure access to a target server by a client apparatus over an IP network comprises receiving an IP request from the client apparatus destined for the target server, sending a request for authentication information to the client, receiving the requested authenticated information, performing a validation process for the authentication information, and passing on the IP request from the client to the target server and returning data from the target server to the client dependent upon the outcome of the validation process.

[illegible]